

**REMARKS**

Claims 28-39 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 and 21-27 are canceled and claims 28-39 are added. The cancellation of claims 1-12 and 21-27 is in response to the finality of the Restriction Requirement or in view of the addition of claims 28-39.

New claims 28-39 are directed to the subject matter of elected claims 1-3 and 23-27, which are canceled by this Amendment. Claims 28-39 recite the subject matter of these canceled claims with better clarity and additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 3 and paragraphs [0030], [0036] and [0042] - [0045]. The rejections of canceled claims 1-3 and 23-27 in the Office Action are responded as if they were applied to new claims 28-29. Entry and examination of claims 28-39 is respectfully requested under 37 U.S.C. §1.114.

The Office Action requests that JASO M505-87 be submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, Applicant submits an Information Disclosure Statement with this Amendment to provide English-language translation of relevant portions of this reference. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of this reference by returning an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement.

The Office Action rejects claims 23-37 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 23-27.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,143,058 to Dahlgren et al. ("Dahlgren"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to claims 28-39, to the extent applicable.

Dahlgren discloses a method in which a sample is dried prior to being placed into a humidity chamber for the sample to adsorb water vapor. See col. 12, lines 1-47. The

adsorption is calculated when equilibrium is reached. This method does not include a step of feeding a material in air into a porous cell structure, because the action of "feeding" is an active step which cannot be performed by passively waiting for the sample to reach equilibrium. Dahlgren does not disclose or suggest an active step of "feeding." Thus, Dahlgren does not disclose or suggest "feeding a material in air into the porous cell structure so that the material adheres to a surface of the porous partition walls and to a surface of pores of the porous partition walls, said material being steam or hydrocarbon," as recited in claim 28.

For at least the above reasons, Dahlgren does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 28, and claims 29-39 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Dahlgren, if applicable, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,716,899 to Guile et al. ("Guile"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to claims 28-39, to the extent applicable.

Guile discloses determining the efficiency of hydrocarbon adsorption by passing a gas stream through a hydrocarbon analyzer after the gas stream has been passed through a sample. See col. 13, line 63 - col. 14, line 8. Guile does not disclose or suggest any relevance of the determined efficiency of hydrocarbon adsorption to a value that is related to the water absorption ability of a porous cell structure. In fact, Guile does not disclose anything relating to water absorption ability of a porous cell structure. Thus, Guile does not disclose or suggest "determining an amount of said material absorbed in step (i), and taking said amount as said value relating to said water absorption ability of the porous cell structure," as recited in claim 28.

For at least the above reasons, Guile does not disclose each and every element recited in, and does not render obvious the subject matter of, claim 28 and claims 29-39 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over Guile, to the extent applicable, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0025290 to Chang ("Chang"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to claims 28-39, to the extent applicable.

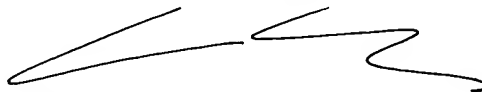
Chang discloses adsorption of carbon dioxide and water using carbon molecular sieves (CMS). See paragraph [0024]. A sieve is a wire mesh, and is not a porous cell structure having porous partition walls separating gas-flow cells. Chang does not disclose or suggest a porous cell structure having porous partition walls separating gas-flow cells, much less feeding a material into such porous cell structure. Thus, Chang does not disclose or suggest "feeding a material in air into the porous cell structure so that the material adheres to a surface of the porous partition walls and to a surface of pores of the porous partition walls, said material being steam or hydrocarbon," as recited in claim 28.

For at least the above reasons, Chang does not disclose each and every element recited in, and does not render obvious the subject matter of, claim 28, and claims 29-39 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over Chang, if applicable, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 28-39 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Request for Continued Examination  
Information Disclosure Statement

Date: February 7, 2007

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